MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information. No talukwar statistics of appointments are prepared.

Representation in Service.

163. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate giving priority in the matter of appointments to applicants from communities insufficiently represented in the service, in proportion to their population and education and from those who inhabit the interior taluks of north Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member's attention is invited to the Dewan's replies to the representations of Mr. N. Kumaran Asan and Mr. P. J. Kurien at the nineteenth session of the Assembly. (*Vide* pages 186 and 193 of the Proceedings.)

Disposal of Petitions.

164. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the fact that when petitions relating to matters of public interest are sent to the officers of Government either by the public or their representatives, with a request for reply, some of them do not send any reply at all?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay down a rule making it obligatory on the officers to give endorsements on such petitions within a fixed time?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) Instructions will be issued that all signed petitions presented to the proper authority should be answered as promptly as possible.

Free Supply of Books to Pupils of Depressed classes.

165. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*):

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the depressed classes such as Pulayas and Parayas have not, owing to their poverty, made sufficient advancement in education, in spite of the fact that they are admitted into schools and given fee concessions?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to encourage the children belonging to these classes, by giving them, free of cost, the text-books required during the period of their primary education?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) Government consider that this is not necessary in view of the fact that there is only one text-book for each of the primary classes.

Village Roads in Muvattupuzha.

166. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*):

(*a*) Has the usual grant allotted for the maintenance of village roads in the Muvattupuzha taluk been spent this year also?

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